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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (h)
Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature

Egypt:* revised draft resolution

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5]

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[6]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the 1982 World Charter for Nature,[7]

Noting the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,[8]

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[9]

Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010, 66/204 of 22 December 2011, 67/214 of 21 December 2012, 68/216 of 20 December 2013, 69/224 of 19 December 2014, 70/208 of 22 December 2015, 71/232 of 21 December 2016 and 72/223 of 20 December 2017 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighteenth session [10] entitled "Agreed outcome pursuant to the Bali Action Plan", adopted in Doha on 8 December 2012, in which the Conference of the Parties, in section I, paragraph 2, among others, took into account the imperatives of equitable access to sustainable development,

Recalling also the interactive dialogue on living in harmony with nature held on the occasion of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016,

Noting the first decade since the adoption of the Constitution of Ecuador in Montecristi in 2008, which was the first to have included the rights of nature at the constitutional level, as part of the broader effort to protect and respect nature,

Noting with appreciation the interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature convened by the President of the General Assembly with the overall theme of Earth jurisprudence in the implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns in harmony with nature, held on 23 April 2018, in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day and to inspire citizens and societies to reconsider how they interact with the natural world in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in harmony with nature, and noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development,

Recognizing that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable

[7] Resolution 37/7, annex.

[8] See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

[9] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[10] FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.1, decision 1/CP.18.

development, and expressing the conviction that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting also the importance for some of the concept of "climate justice", when taking action to address climate change,

Noting also that, in promoting a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development in harmony with nature, Earth system science plays a significant role,

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation, potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on the Earth systems, with the aim of promoting and ensuring an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth,

Recognizing that a number of countries consider Mother Earth the source of all life and nourishment and that these countries consider Mother Earth and humankind to be a living community of interrelated and interdependent beings,

Noting that in recent years there have been many initiatives on sustainable development governance, including policy documents on living well in harmony with nature,

Taking note of the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,[13]

Noting the adoption and the opening for signature, at United Nations Headquarters, of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement, the first binding agreement of its kind, and encouraging its early entry into force as a contribution to sustainable development,

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity, nor is it an indicator of development, and the need to overcome these limitations with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[13] See IPBES/2/17.

countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles,

Recognizing that sustainable production and consumption patterns can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty and creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and youth, while promoting local culture, protecting the environment, improving the quality of life and promoting rural development and better living conditions for rural populations,

Recognizing also that many ancient civilizations, indigenous peoples and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing further that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods and therefore contribute to global efforts and initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that some countries are discussing the possibility of considering a declaration on the protection of nature,

Noting also that, in some countries, both formal and informal educational activities on the rights of Nature or Mother Earth have arisen in the professional and public spheres in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and encouraging a holistic approach of education and public awareness for sustainable development in its three dimensions,

Recognizing the work undertaken by civil society, academia, scientists, local communities and indigenous peoples with regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts, along with those of Governments and private sector organizations, to devise more sustainable models and methods for production and consumption,

Noting the work of the experts of the Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network, who have initiated important activities to support the United Nations with the goal of ensuring that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, as set out in target 12.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;[14]

2. *Invites* Member States to consider existing studies and, as appropriate, the findings and recommendations of the reports of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature,[15] of the experts' summary report of the first virtual dialogue of the

[14] A/73/221.

[15] A/65/314, A/66/302, A/67/317, A/68/325, A/68/325/Corr.1, A/69/322, A/70/268 and A/72/175.

General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, addressing Earth jurisprudence,[16] and of the interactive dialogues of the Assembly on Harmony with Nature in the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through harmony with nature;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the seventy-third session of the Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2019, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other relevant stakeholders, to discuss the contributions of harmony with nature in ensuring inclusive, equitable and quality education on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and to inspire citizens and societies to reconsider how they interact with the natural world in the context of sustainable development;

4. *Encourages* the experts of the Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network to carry out a study of local and national initiatives on the protection of Mother Earth, as applicable, to be considered by the Secretary-General in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to continue observing International Mother Earth Day annually on 22 April, requests the Secretary-General to provide continuing support, and encourages Member States to observe the International Day at the national level;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the agreement between the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,[17] invites Member States to contribute to the earmarked activities related to Harmony with Nature under the trust fund of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, aiming, inter alia, at the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogues of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, and invites relevant stakeholders to contribute to the earmarked activities related to Harmony with Nature;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use the website on Harmony with Nature, managed by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature and to advance the integration of interdisciplinary scientific work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge and on existing national legislation;

8. *Calls for* holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development, in its three dimensions, that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;

9. *Invites* States, as appropriate:

(a) To further build up a knowledge network in order to advance a holistic conceptualization of sustainable development in its three dimensions to identify different economic approaches that reflect the drivers and values of living in harmony with nature, relying on current scientific information to achieve sustainable development, and to facilitate support for and recognition of the fundamental interconnections between humankind and nature;

(b) To promote harmony with the Earth, including as found in indigenous cultures, to learn from those cultures and to support and promote efforts being made

[16] See A/71/266.

[17] Available from www.harmonywithnatureun.org/trustfund.html.

from the national level down to the local community level to reflect the protection of nature;

10. *Recognizes* that protecting ecosystems and avoiding harmful practices against animals, plants, microorganisms and non-living environments contributes to the coexistence of humankind in harmony with nature, and invites the Secretary-General to address these issues in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Encourages* all countries to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic national statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

12. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard notes the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on a work programme to develop broader measures of progress and to conduct a technical review of existing efforts in this area;[18]

13. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind, and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Harmony with Nature".

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[18] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 4* (E/2013/24), chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/114.

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (i)
Sustainable development: ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Egypt:* revised draft resolution

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009, 66/206 of 22 December 2011, 69/225 of 19 December 2014, 70/201 of 22 December 2015, 71/233 of 21 December 2016 and 72/224 of 20 December 2017, as well as its resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and 67/215 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to declare 2014–2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to

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address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Looking forward to the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Highlighting the synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[4]

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[5] and Agenda 21[6] and the principles set out therein, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[7] and the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8] the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[9] the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, entitled "Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024",[10] and the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, entitled "Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020",[11]

Reaffirming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[12]

Reaffirming further that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels and across all sectors for the achievement of sustainable development,

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[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

[4] Resolution 65/1.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[12] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Emphasizing that universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is an integral part of poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable energy, including in off-grid and decentralized systems, and energy efficiency could make a significant contribution in that regard,

Deeply concerned that nearly 2.7 billion people in developing countries, especially in rural areas, rely on traditional biomass, coal and kerosene for cooking and heating, with disproportionate health and workload impacts on women and children, including an estimated 3.8 million deaths annually, that close to 1 billion people are without access to electricity, that Africa accounts for more than half of both access figures and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

Noting with concern that energy represents less than 1 per cent of overall United Nations expenditure on the Sustainable Development Goals, despite its critical importance also in achieving other goals,

Expressing concern that, at current rates of progress, none of the global energy targets of the Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved by 2030,

Emphasizing the critical socioeconomic benefits of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and the need to reframe the understanding of energy from a technical unit to a requirement for basic social services, economic development and poverty eradication,

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries to achieve universal access through the rapid expansion of affordable sustainable energy worldwide,

Recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that this will include the mobilization of financial resources, as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed,

Welcoming the significant reductions in the cost of renewable energy, the sector's net positive job contributions and the rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity additions, which are now greater than those of other resources in the electricity sector, and noting that the levelized cost of solar and wind energy in many regions of the world is fully competitive with traditional energy resources,

Taking note of the work of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including Sustainable Energy for All, which has given strong momentum to the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, the initiatives of the Global Climate Action Agenda, the Small Island Developing States Lighthouses Initiative, SIDS DOCK, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation and others that can contribute to reaching the objective of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which facilitates the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Noting with appreciation also that the transformation of the world's energy systems is being accelerated by advances in technology, rapid declines in the cost of renewable energy, the deployment of least-cost decentralized solutions, policy support, new business models and the sharing of best practices, welcoming the establishment of the International Solar Alliance as an international organization, and noting the continuing work of the International Renewable Energy Agency,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;[13]

2. *Also takes note* of the role and activities of the International Renewable Energy Agency, encouraging the Agency to continue to support its members in the achievement of their renewable energy objectives, as well as the contributions of the International Solar Alliance, and encourages its work to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling-up of solar energy;

3. *Strongly encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to take actions to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, increase the global share of new and renewable energy, improve the inclusion of developing countries in energy sector cooperation, where relevant, and increase the rate of improvement in energy efficiency for a clean, low-emission, low-carbon, climate-resilient, safe, efficient, modern, affordable and sustainable energy system, given the systemic sustainable development benefits, while taking into consideration the diversity of national situations, priorities, policies, specific needs and challenges and capacities of developing countries, including their energy mix and energy systems;

4. *Calls for* ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, as such services are an integral part of poverty eradication measures, human dignity, quality of life, economic opportunity, the combating of inequality, the promotion of health and the prevention of morbidity and mortality, access to education, safe drinking water and sanitation, food security, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental impact reduction, social inclusion and gender equality, including for persons affected by humanitarian emergencies;

5. *Underscores* the importance of access to cleaner and more efficient and sustainable cooking and heating methods, welcomes ongoing efforts, and in this regard calls for the promotion of an enabling environment at the national and international levels for the increased usage of sustainable, cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating methods in all countries, in particular developing countries;

6. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to leverage the cost-competitiveness of renewable energy, especially in off-grid areas, in order to achieve universal energy access, such as by establishing policy frameworks for metering and payment systems, requiring cost comparisons between grid extension and off-grid solutions, facilitating investment by domestic and foreign banks and educating students, communities, investors and entrepreneurs on renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, among other activities, where feasible and appropriate;

[13] A/73/267.

7. *Calls upon* Governments to expand the use of renewable energy beyond the power sector, taking into account national priorities and constraints, to industry, heating and cooling, construction and infrastructure and, in particular, the transport sector, including through sustainable sector coupling, in the context of sustainable development, including climate change, and calls for supportive policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels;

8. *Recognizes* that current global progress in improving energy efficiency falls well below the pace necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, and encourages, in accordance with national laws and regulations, the promotion of widespread energy efficiency initiatives in all economic sectors, the adoption and updating of building performance codes and standards, energy efficiency labelling, the promotion of energy management systems, the retrofitting of existing buildings and public procurement policies on energy, among other modalities, as appropriate, as well as the prioritization of smart grid systems, district energy systems and community energy plans to improve synergies among clean and effective use of traditional resources, renewable energy and energy efficiency, which aim to promote the interconnectivity of clean and renewable energy infrastructure and improve energy efficiency;

9. *Calls for* strengthened cooperation at the regional level to promote innovation and facilitate financing, support regional cross-border power grid connectivity, as appropriate, to advance economic integration and sustainable development and share best practices that are responsive to regional needs with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 7[14] and its interlinkages with the other Sustainable Development Goals,

10. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources;

11. *Encourages* Governments, relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to promote investments in developing sustainable, inclusive and equitable energy systems, including, inter alia, by strengthening energy systems through cross-border grid connections, as appropriate, and to consider incorporating decentralized renewable energy solutions in energy planning, as appropriate, and recognizes that energy transition will take different paths in different parts of the world;

12. *Also encourages* Governments, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to use and promote an integrated resource planning and management approach in their energy strategies that considers energy choices in the context of linked sectors, inter alia, water, waste, air quality and food, taking into account national circumstances;

13. *Recognizes* that sustainable energy access and its deployment can be both improved and accelerated by gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and calls upon Governments, the United Nations development system and other stakeholders to increase educational and capacity-building programmes for women in the sector, further advance equal pay and leadership and other opportunities for women in the energy sector, promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and programmes, mainstream a gender perspective in such policies and programmes and ensure women's full and equal access to and use of sustainable energy to enhance their

[14] See resolution 70/1.

economic and social empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities;

14. *Encourages* Governments, with the support of relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to accelerate the transition towards sustainable economies, according to national policies and plans, through mitigation and adaptation strategies that improve energy efficiency and create more and better employment opportunities for all, including young people, in wage and self-employment;

15. *Emphasizes* the potential of sustainable energy use to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, recognizes that increasing the deployment of renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency are components of many countries' nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] and urges effective and timely support for the full implementation of those contributions, as applicable;

16. *Notes* that the impacts of climate change can also threaten access to and the supply of energy, and also notes the importance of increasing the resilience of the energy sector to climate change, which can be facilitated by the expansion of renewable energy;

17. *Emphasizes*, while noting progress, that the large-scale deployment of technologies has been insufficient and uneven and that support is required to realize their potential, along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

18. *Also emphasizes* the value of regional and interregional approaches, which can, among other advantages, enhance the deployment of renewable and sustainable energy by facilitating the sharing of experiences, reduce transaction costs, leverage economies of scale, enable greater cross-border interconnectivity to promote energy system reliability and resilience and augment domestic capacity-building, and recognizes the work of organizations and initiatives in that regard;

19. *Invites* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue ongoing efforts and take further action to provide financial resources, as appropriate, to support efforts aimed at ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including low-emission, low-carbon and climate-resilient new and renewable resources of energy of demonstrated viability, especially focused on energy access and economic development in both urban and rural areas, while noting the potential catalytic effect of concessional and other finance and taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries;

20. *Encourages* the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and highlights the importance of integrating sustainable energy in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

21. *Stresses* the importance of strategies and contributions by Governments and relevant stakeholders to multi-stakeholder partnerships in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and encourages coordination and collaboration between the United Nations and relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as Sustainable Energy for All;

22. *Recognizes* the catalytic effect of the sharing of knowledge and experience, capacity-building and technical assistance on sustainable energy deployment, and encourages existing and new efforts to enable Governments from developing countries and relevant stakeholders to plan, finance, implement and monitor sustainable energy projects to further strengthen their national institutions and capacities;

23. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in further rapid reductions in the cost of new and renewable resources of energy and could further increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment, including rationalizing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances,

24. *Emphasizes* the value of education, academia, technology and entrepreneurship to develop solutions to face energy challenges and achieve energy sustainability, as well as the importance of investing in research and development in sustainable energy technologies, and also emphasizes in this context the urgent need to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to upgraded technologies and improved infrastructures for supplying affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

25. *Calls for* national efforts to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and strengthened local engagement to complement current approaches, and reaffirms the commitment to supporting subnational and local efforts, taking advantage of their direct control, where applicable, of local infrastructure and codes to foster uptake in end-use sectors, such as residential, commercial and industrial buildings, industry, agriculture, transport, waste and sanitation;

26. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to promote the provision of stable, adequate and predictable financial resources and technical assistance for sustainable energy and to enhance the effectiveness, coordination and full utilization of appropriate international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to convene dialogues, which could consist of a series of events, including discussions among energy policymakers and other stakeholders, in 2019, to be supported by the Secretariat, in order to discuss the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including the global plan of action for the Decade, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, the summary of the deliberations of which would be incorporated into the report on the implementation of the present resolution;

27. *Encourages* the entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates and taking into account the need to improve coordination among them, in the context of the implementation of resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016 and 72/279 of 31 May 2018, to assist countries, in particular at the country level, upon request by their Governments, by explicitly leveraging partnerships with other international organizations, donors and relevant stakeholders, including in their efforts to achieve universal access to sustainable energy and to accelerate its deployment,

28. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

29. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities and operations around the world, set implementation targets and timelines by the end of 2019, building on and avoiding duplication with existing initiatives, and report on progress, within the most relevant existing reporting frameworks;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including activities carried out to mark the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".

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Sustainable development: the role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia

Australia, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Czechia, Finland, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam: revised draft resolution

The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 68/218 of 20 December 2013,

Taking into account the outcome of the high-level international forum entitled "Uranium Tailings in Central Asia: Local Problems, Regional Consequences, Global Solution", held in Geneva on 29 June 2009,

Taking into account also the outcome of the international conference entitled "Uranium Tailings in Central Asia: Joint Efforts in Risk Reduction", held in Bishkek on 24 and 25 October 2012, and the subsequent conference held in Bishkek in May 2018,

Noting the high-level events dedicated to the dangers associated with the former uranium mining activities in Central Asia, which were initiated by the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the European Union and held in New York on 20 September 2017 and on 27 September 2018 on the margins of the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions of the General Assembly,

Taking into account the ongoing efforts of Central Asian States towards the remediation of former uranium facilities in Central Asia,

Taking into account also the role of the international donor community in providing support to the Central Asian States in addressing these problems at the bilateral and multilateral levels,

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Taking into account further the necessity for a strategic and coordinated approach in the preparation and implementation of programmes aimed at solving the problems associated with uranium tailings in Central Asia,

Taking into account the efforts made towards the remediation of uranium tailings in Central Asia and the implementation of projects carried out under the international target programme of the Commonwealth of Independent States entitled "Remediation of the territories of States affected by uranium mining industries" and projects of the European Union-led programme on environmental remediation in Central Asia, including on conducting an integrated environmental impact assessment and feasibility studies for the environmental remediation of the uranium legacy sites of Maili-Say, Min-Kush and Shekaftar, Kyrgyzstan, Degmay and Taboshar, Tajikistan, and Chorkesar and Yangiobod, Uzbekistan, as well as promising remediation projects for these sites planned to be implemented and financed within the framework of the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and noting the holding of a donors' conference in this connection which was held in London on 8 November 2018,

Noting the importance of the Strategic Master Plan for environmental remediation at the sites of former uranium facilities in Central Asia, developed by the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites of the International Atomic Energy Agency and approved by the competent authorities of the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 2017,[1]

Noting further that numerous burial sites of uranium waste and other extremely hazardous radioactive processing wastes are located in densely populated areas of the Central Asian countries,

Noting also that many tailings ponds are located in seismically active areas close to population centres and the banks of major rivers in the region and are subject to the threat of natural disasters,

Reaffirming the human rights to life, to an adequate standard of living and to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and stressing in this regard the need to mitigate the impact of natural and man-made disasters in the areas around uranium waste burial sites and tailings ponds in order to avoid loss of human life, as well as immediate and long-term negative consequences for human health,

Noting the need to inform the public in a timely manner when conducting work on the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia,

Considering that, despite the efforts made by the States of Central Asia at the national level and despite the support of international programmes and projects to remediate former uranium mines and tailings ponds, a number of States continue to have serious social, economic and environmental problems associated with former uranium mines and tailings ponds,

Striving to contribute to strengthening the security and safety of radioactive materials,

Expressing gratitude to donor countries, in particular Czechia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States of America, and to international and regional organizations and financial institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme, the International Atomic

[1] International Atomic Energy Agency, *Strategic Master Plan: Environmental Remediation of Uranium Legacy Sites in Central Asia* (Vienna, 2017).

Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and others, which are providing assistance in addressing the problems of uranium tailings in the Central Asian region,

Stressing the need for a coordinated approach in the remediation of former uranium production facilities, particularly in Central Asia, and welcoming the multilateral initiatives undertaken by the international community to pool resources and identify ways of providing assistance to address the problems associated with uranium tailings ponds in the Central Asian region,

Stressing the importance of regional cooperation for successful implementation of environmental remediation in Central Asia in order, inter alia, to increase competence, exchange information and use best practices and lessons learned in the management of radioactively contaminated areas in Central Asia and other regions, including through relevant training programmes, and to use the experience gained, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations programmes and bodies, as well as relevant international organizations, in addressing the human factor involved in preparedness for accidents and emergency situations at uranium legacy sites with potential transboundary effects and mitigating their potential effects,

Stressing the importance of sharing information, good practices and lessons learned in the management of radioactively contaminated areas obtained in the process of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and encouraging cooperation to strengthen national expertise in radiation safety and radiation protection, including through relevant training programmes, and the use of experience gained, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations programmes and bodies, as well as relevant international organizations, in addressing the human dimension of preparedness and recovery from nuclear disaster situations,[2]

Taking into account that the Governments and populations of the States of Central Asia are aware of the threat of possible natural or man-made disasters and their global consequences for the lives and the health of a large number of people and for the environment,

1. *Notes* the importance of remediating areas affected by former uranium extraction plants;

2. *Recognizes* the need to devise and promote effective programmes and projects for the responsible and safe management of radioactive and toxic waste in Central Asia;

3. *Also recognizes* the role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia, and emphasizes the importance of adopting preventive and other measures to resolve the problem of radioactive and toxic waste and to remediate the polluted areas in accordance with the highest safety standards and best global practices;

4. *Notes* the recent initiatives taken to strengthen the preparation and implementation of remediation programmes through the identification of priority areas;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to assist the States of Central Asia in resolving the problems of uranium tailings ponds, and emphasizes the importance

[2] See A/68/498.

of regional cooperation in the following priority areas: improvement of the legislative framework in accordance with international standards; management and maintenance at safe levels of uranium and other radioactive and toxic tailings; remediation of tailings ponds and development and implementation of special programmes and projects to improve the monitoring of their safety; raising of public awareness; adoption of measures to prevent people from gaining access to polluted materials; and implementation of socioeconomic, health and humanitarian measures to enhance the quality and standard of living of the population in regions where tailings ponds are located;

6. *Notes*:

(a) The importance of the Strategic Master Plan developed by the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites of the International Atomic Energy Agency and approved by the States of Central Asia,[1] which is designed to harmonize projects and demonstrate to the international community the availability of a reliable and jointly developed approach to the implementation of remediation programmes in all of the Central Asian countries and recent initiatives taken to strengthen the preparation and implementation of such programmes on the basis of identified priority areas;

(b) The practical implementation, begun in 2013, of the international target programme of the Commonwealth of Independent States entitled "Remediation of the territories of States affected by uranium mining industries", which is an integral part of the European Union-led programme on environmental remediation in Central Asia aimed at environmental remediation at seven priority sites in the region, and is in line with the Strategic Master Plan;

(c) The need to develop strategies in order to inform the public and other stakeholders of remediation programmes in all of the States of Central Asia;

7. *Expresses support* for the efforts made by the States of Central Asia in devising and implementing their country programmes, including in mobilizing domestic resources, and encourages the States of the region to hold further bilateral and multilateral negotiations to avert the radiation threat in Central Asia.